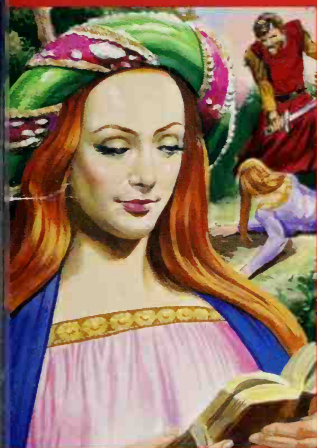
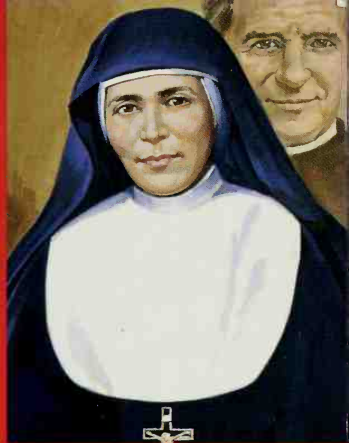


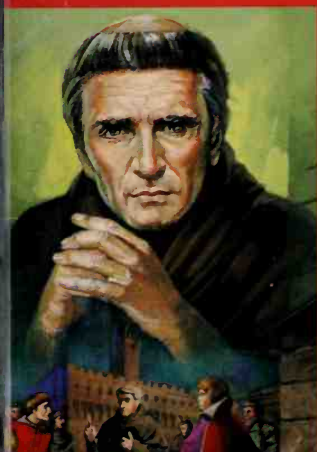


Book of Saints



By
FATHER LOVASIK, S.V.D.

Part 12





*This Book
Belongs to*



Book of Saints

“SUPER-HEROES OF GOD”

By REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.
Divine Word Missionary

PART 12

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Saint Rosalina

January 17

BORN into a wealthy family, Rosalina received a good Christian education from the Poor Clares at Villeneuve.

Even as a child she was devoted to the poor and often brought food to needy families who lived nearby.

Once she was bringing food hidden in her apron, and her father asked what was in the apron. She told him it was flowers. When her father opened her apron, he did indeed find flowers!

Rosalina chose to give up her comfortable life to serve God as a religious. So she entered the Carthusian monastery in Bertrand where she practiced strict self-denial and prayer.

She was a model religious whose desire to please God and devotion to the Rule were recognized by all.

Soon she became prioress of the Carthusian house at Celle Roubaud. Here she experienced visions and could read people's souls.

On January 17, 1329, Rosalina went to meet the Lord she served so loyally. And her tomb became a site of numerous miracles.

Saint Teresa Margaret Redi

March 7

ANNE Mary Redi was born in 1747 in the Tuscan city of Arezzo. Her family was prominent in that city. And she was sent to St. Apollonia Convent in Florence to be educated.

When she was seventeen, Anne entered the convent of St. Teresa in Florence to begin her life as a Discalced Carmelite nun.

Feeling called to a hidden life of love and sacrifice, she took the religious name Teresa Margaret of the Sacred Heart.

Teresa spent many hours in prayer and progressed rapidly in her vocation through heroic charity toward others.

Whenever Teresa spoke of God, her face became radiant with joy. She died at the age of twenty-three, renowned for her life of holiness. Pope Pius XI canonized her in 1934.

Teresa's life, brief as it was, clearly showed us the joys and graces of a life lived in the depths of God's perfect love.

Her body has remained incorrupt to this day.





Saint Lucy Filippini

March 25

THE name Lucy means “light.” And Lucy Filippini worked tirelessly all her life to bring the light of Christ to others.

Lucy was born in 1672 in Tarquinia, about sixty miles from Rome. Her parents died shortly after her birth.

Even while quite young, Lucy was drawn to a life of prayer and always showed concern for others. These qualities brought her to the attention of Cardinal Barbarigo.

The Cardinal sent her to Montefiascone to work under Blessed Rose Venerini who founded a school to train new teachers.

There Lucy began her life’s work devoted entirely to Christian education. She started many new schools. And support was never lacking because people admired her modesty, charity, and deep spirituality.

In 1707, at the request of Pope Clement IX she founded several schools in Rome, which prospered because of her zeal and enthusiasm.

Lucy died a saintly death on March 25, 1732, the exact day she had predicted.

Saint Mary Mazzarello

May 14

AS the daughter of peasants in Mornese near Genoa, Mary worked in the fields. She was always fervent in prayer and at seventeen she joined a sodality of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

Several years later Mary was stricken with typhoid and could no longer work in the fields. Then she turned to dressmaking with a friend named Petronella.

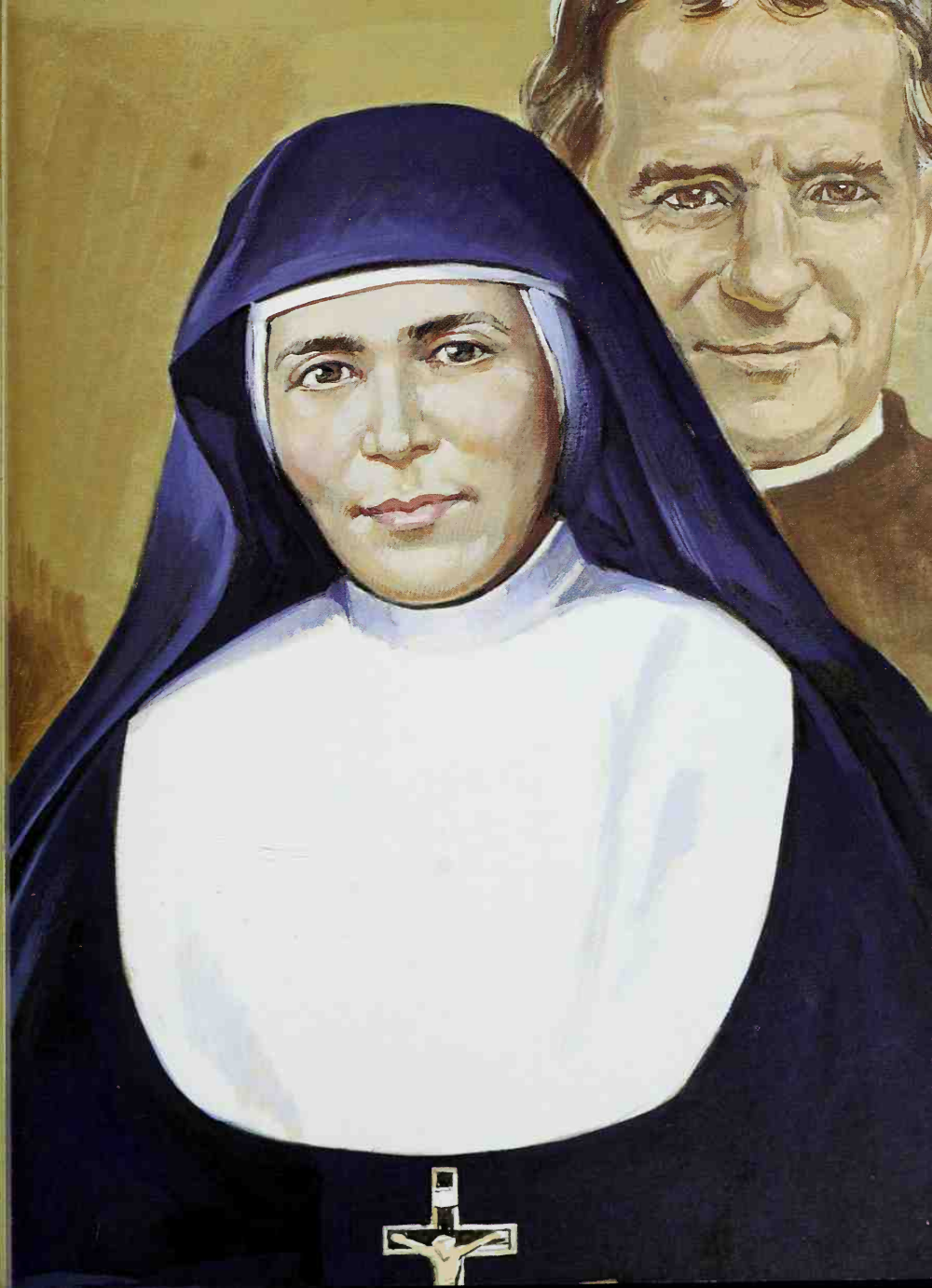
The two women felt called to the Christian education of young girls in the same way that Don Bosco reached out to help young boys. So they began teaching young girls in their area.

In 1872, Don Bosco founded the Daughters of Our Lady Help of Christians, also known as the Salesian Sisters. And Mary was appointed to head the congregation.

The community spread quickly and expanded its goals to charitable works as well as teaching.

In Mary's lifetime thirteen houses were established. Now there are over eight hundred!

Mary died at the motherhouse in Nezza Monferato in 1879 and was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1951.



Saint Simeon Stylites the Younger

May 24

SIMEON was born in Antioch in 521. His father died when he was five years old, and he came under the protection of a monk named John.

John lived on a platform on top of a column in order to seek solitude to live for God alone. Simeon followed this life-style and ascended his pillar when he was only seven years old.

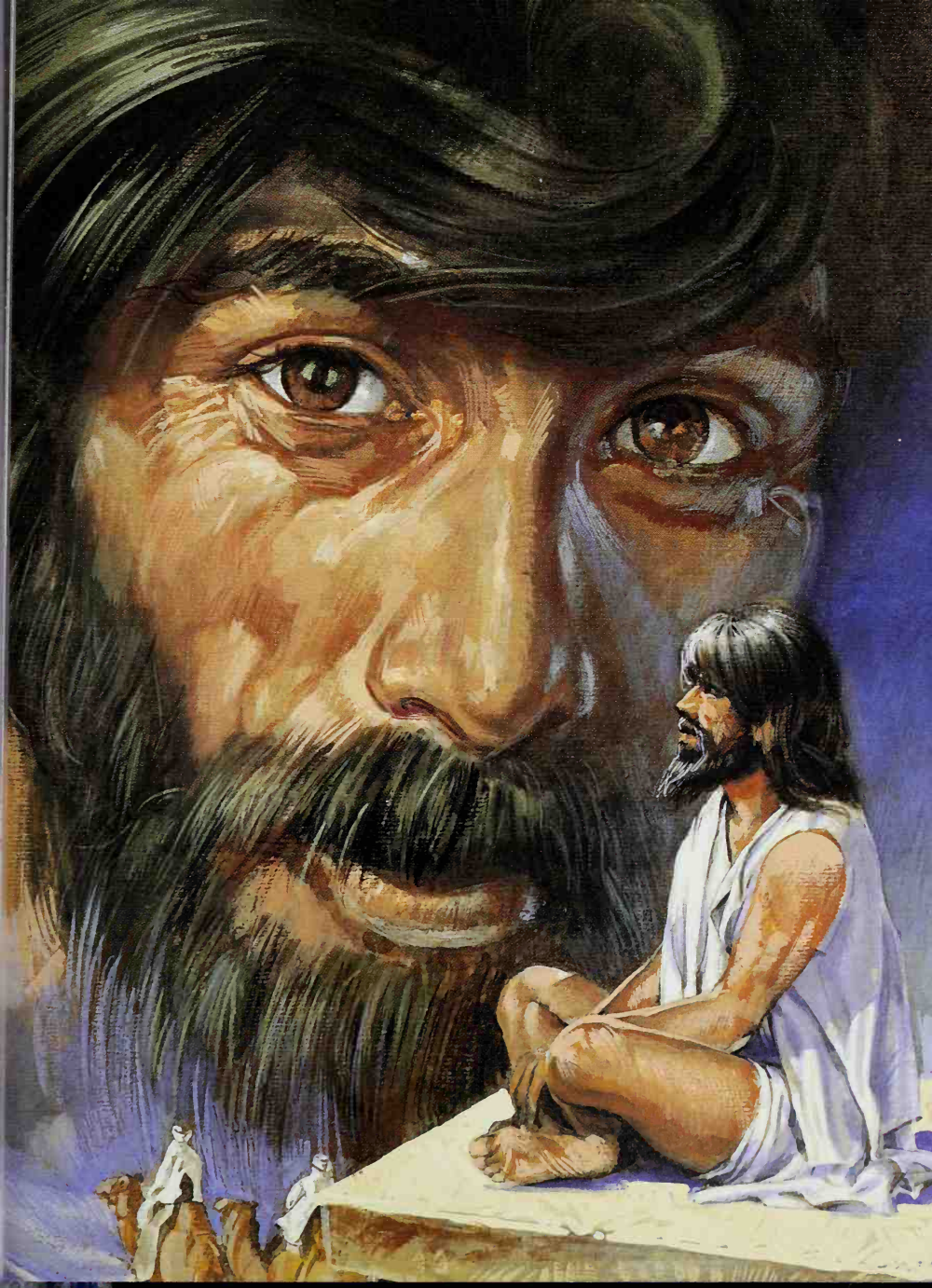
At age twenty, Simeon established a monastery in a more remote area and had a column built for himself. He lived on it for the last forty-five years of his life.

He was ordained a priest shortly after. And monks would ascend a ladder to receive the Holy Eucharist from him.

As word of Simeon's holiness spread, pilgrims flocked to hear him. And many cures and miracles were attributed to him.

Simeon lived in an age far different from our own. He was a stylite, from the word "stulos," which means pillar or column. In oriental Christendom stylites were popular for many centuries.

After sixty-nine years upon a pillar spent in prayer and self-denial, Simeon died in 597.



Saint William of York

June 8

WILLIAM was of noble English-Norman heritage, the son of Count Herbert, treasurer to King Henry I.

In 1130, he became a canon of York and was known for his generosity to the poor.

Then in 1140, William was elected Archbishop of York. But his election was challenged by a group who supported another candidate.

So William traveled to Rome to have the dispute settled. As a result of the deaths of several popes and the reluctance of one of his supporters to testify, no solution was reached for some time.

Then William retired to Winchester where he lived as a monk, giving a heroic example of patience and resignation.

Finally in 1153 after another trip to Rome, William was consecrated Archbishop of York. And he was recognized for his piety and gentleness, showing no resentment toward anyone.

He died shortly thereafter in 1154, and many miracles took place at his tomb.



Saint Bertrand of Le Mans

June 30

BERTRAND always welcomed the opportunity to serve Christ in those who were poor and rejected.

Born in 553 in Autun, France, he was ordained in Paris by Saint Germanicus and later became an archdeacon at the cathedral.

As word of his holiness and generosity to the poor spread, he was appointed Bishop of Le Mans in 587. As Bishop, at times he was forced to take sides in disputes. As a result, he was sent into exile several times.

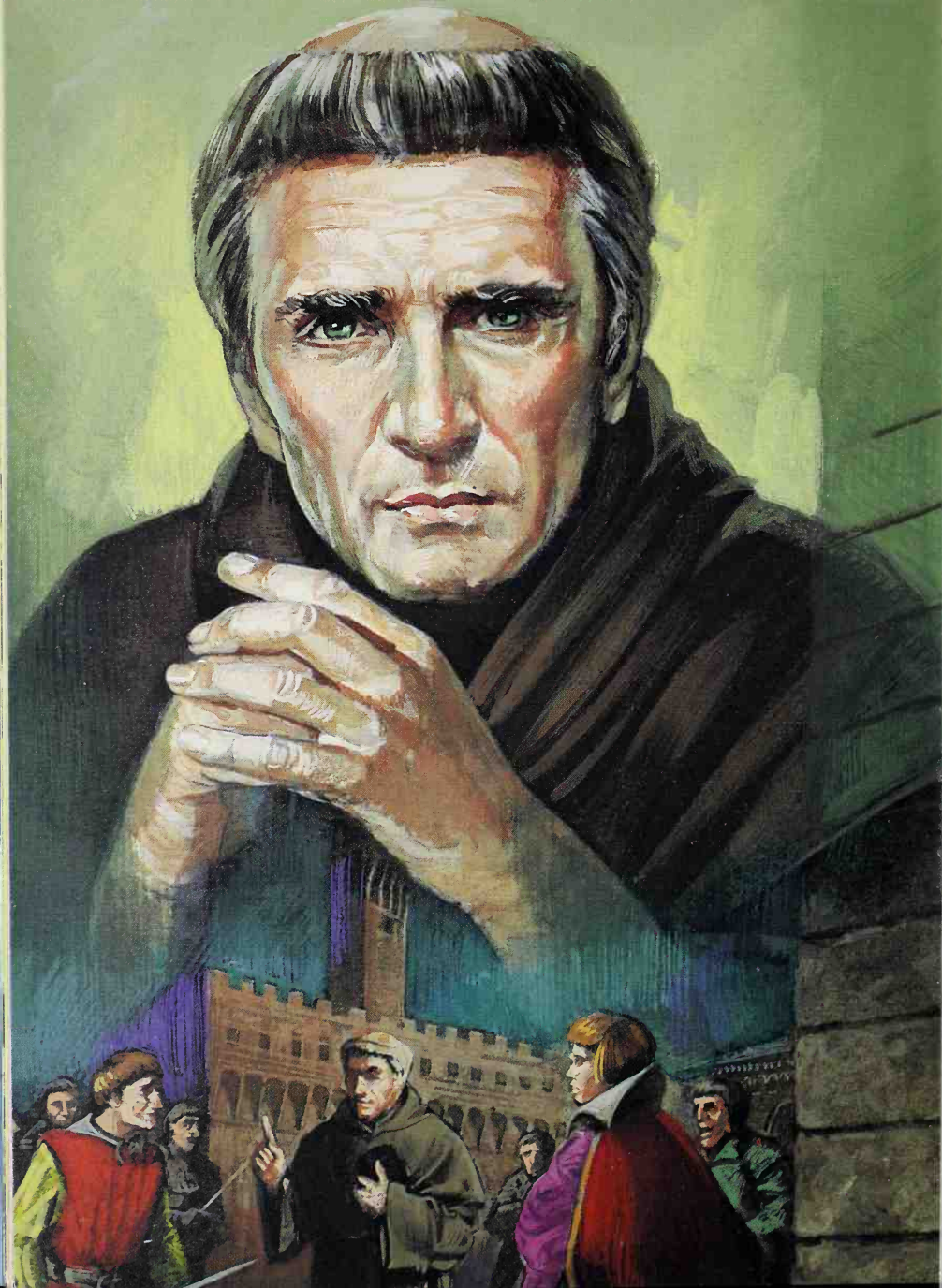
Exile was a heavy cross for Bertrand because he was separated from the flock he loved. Then in 605, the holy man was reinstated as Bishop by King Clotaire II.

Bertrand was known for his agricultural ability especially in cultivating grapes. Thus he helped his people to earn a living from the land.

He founded a monastery and also a hospice for those terminally ill. And he always reached out to people most in need.

Bertrand died in 623.





Saint Philip Benizi

August 22

PHILIP Benizi was born in Florence, Italy, in 1233. He studied medicine in Paris and Padua and received his doctorate at the age of nineteen.

After practicing medicine for a year, Philip felt that God was calling him to the religious life, so he joined the Order of Servites at Monte Senario. He was ordained at Siena in 1258. And in 1267 he became the prior general.

Under his guidance the Order grew rapidly, spreading to Poland and Hungary and then to India in the Far East.

People flocked to hear Philip preach, and he won many converts to Christ. He was renowned as a miracle worker. On one occasion he gave his cloak to a leper. When the man put it on, he was cured of his leprosy.

As he lay dying in 1285, Philip pointed to his crucifix, saying, "This is my book. From it I learned the Christian life and the road to paradise." He was canonized in 1671 by Pope Clement X.

Saint Mary Soledad

October 11

BORN in Madrid in 1826, from her earliest days Emanuela Torres-Acosta wanted to serve God as a religious. When she tried to enter the Dominican Order, she was rejected because of poor health.

Many times when God closes one door, He opens another. So in 1848, Emanuela was asked to establish a group of nuns who would serve the sick poor in their homes.

Taking the name Mary Soledad, she guided the new community called the Handmaids of Mary. After some early difficulties, the Order prospered.

A deadly cholera epidemic broke out in Madrid in 1865. Because of their heroic work serving the afflicted people, the Handmaids of Mary were widely acclaimed.

As a result, the community spread throughout Europe and the Americas. When Mary Soledad died in 1887, she had founded forty-six convents of the Handmaids of Mary. She was raised to Sainthood by Pope Paul VI in 1970.





Saint Bertrand of Comminges

October 16

THERE was great joy when Bertrand was born near Toulouse, France, in the eleventh century. His father was a military officer, and Bertrand was expected to serve in the army of the king.

But as a young man, Bertrand chose to serve Christ the King and became a priest. He joined the canons of Toulouse, a group of priests of the diocese who lived in community.

Then in 1075, Bertrand became the Bishop of Comminges, a position he held for fifty years.

Bertrand spent the rest of his life reforming the clergy and people in his flock. For many had become lax in their faith.

The holy man encouraged the people to a life of virtue. This required discipline and sacrifice, but it assured an eternal reward.

Bertrand's holiness and zeal at times were not appreciated. But by his preaching, example, and prayers, he led many back to God.

During his lifetime several miracles were attributed to Bertrand. He died in 1123 and was canonized in 1309 by Pope Alexander III.

Saint Peter of Alcántara

October 19

PETER was born in Alcántara, Spain, in 1499. From childhood he spent much time in prayer.

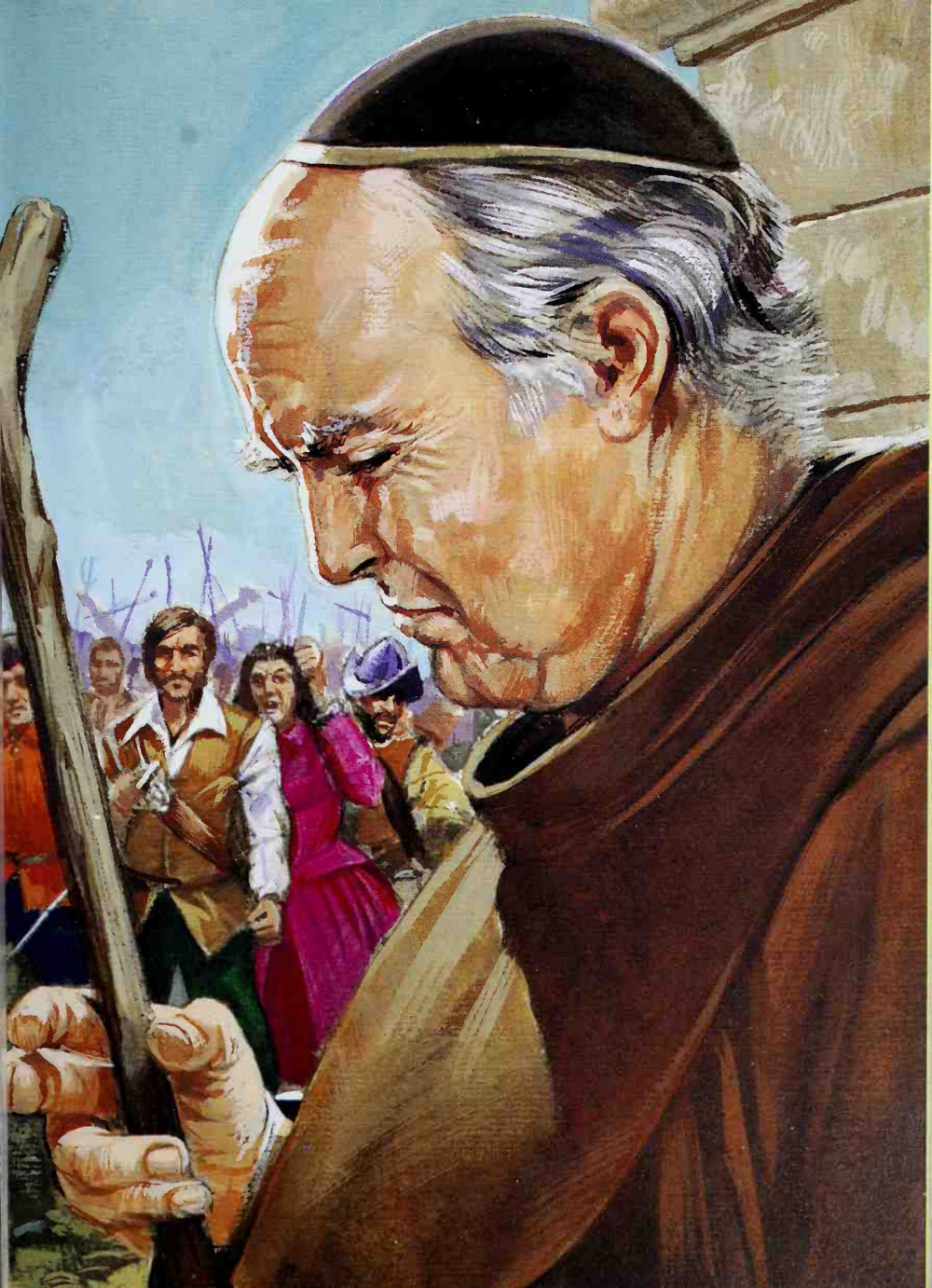
At sixteen he entered a strict house of Observant Franciscans. He was ordained a priest in 1524 and was known for his preaching and a desire to lead a more retired and penitential life.

When Peter saw that some members of the Order were lukewarm in observing the Rule, he began a reform. He sought to call them back to a more generous and faithful practice of the Franciscan way of life.

In 1555 Peter founded a new house in Pedrosa. Thus began the Alcantarine Franciscans. They were characterized by extreme poverty and noble simplicity, stressing the prayerful aspect of the Franciscan vocation.

On one of his journeys the holy man met Saint Teresa of Avila. She was dedicated to reforming the Carmelites. Peter encouraged her and became her confessor and adviser.

Peter was called to his heavenly reward in 1562 and was canonized in 1669 by Pope Clement IX.





Saint Winifred

November 3

VERY few Saints have two feast days during the year. In Wales Winifred's martyrdom is celebrated on June 22 and her death on November 3.

Winifred lived in Wales in the seventh century. Her uncle Saint Beuno helped to nourish her desire to lead a life of virtue and holiness.

According to legend, a chieftain named Caradog became enraged when Winifred spurned his advances. As she tried to flee, he seized her and cut off her head.

Then Saint Beuno implored God to restore Winifred's life and his prayer was answered.

Winifred later became a nun and then abbess at the convent of Gwytherin. Fifteen years after her miraculous restoration to life she died around 650.

When Winifred was martyred, at the place where her head fell, a spring gushed forth. This was called Holy Well. It became a favorite site for pilgrimage where many cures have been reported over the centuries.

Devotion to Saint Winifred grew rapidly. And six ancient churches in Wales were dedicated to her.

Saint Andrew Avellino

November 10

LORENZO Avellino was born in Naples, Italy, in 1521. After earning degrees in civil and canon law, he was ordained a priest and assigned to church courts.

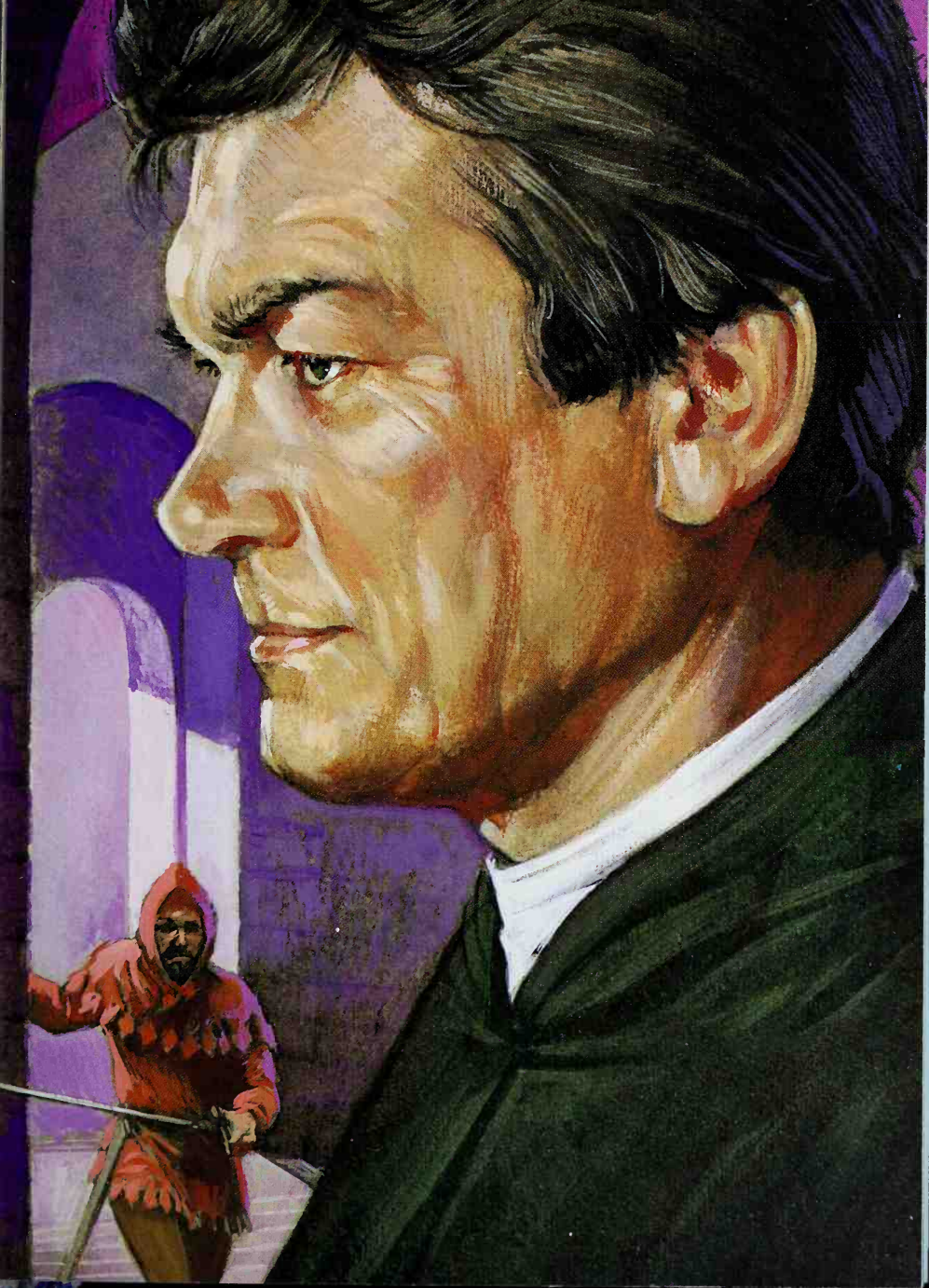
In 1556, Lorenzo gave up his legal career and joined the Theatines in Naples. He took the name Andrew and began zealously seeking the conversion of souls.

Andrew established houses of the Order in Milan and Piacenza by inspiring young men to make a total commitment of their lives to spread the word of God.

Then Andrew returned to Naples, ministering to the people with great compassion. His sermons drew large crowds and many were converted.

Saint Charles Borromeo was his close friend. They would discuss ways to win more souls for Christ and how to protect the Faith from the false teachings of their time.

Andrew died in 1608 while celebrating Mass. He was canonized in 1712, and many miracles have taken place at his tomb.





Blessed Mary Fontanella

December 16

ONE of eleven children of the Count of Santena, Mary was born in 1661 at Baldinero, Italy. Drawn to a life of prayer, she joined the Cistercians when just twelve years old. But when her father died, she returned home.

Then at age sixteen, despite family opposition, Mary became a Carmelite at Saint Christina Convent in Turin.

In a short time she won the admiration of all in the community as she practiced self-denial, spent hours each day in prayer, and reached out to others with sincere love.

Mary was appointed mistress of novices. Then in 1694 she became prioress.

For several years Mary was subjected to attacks by the devil testing her virtue. Then later she was favored with great consolation from God, even mystical experiences.

She is known as Mary of the Angels because on many occasions she could see angels close by.

Mary died in 1717 and was beatified in 1865 by Pope Pius IX.

Saint Antony of Lérins

December 28

ANTONY was born at Valeria, Italy, around 468. His father died when he was eight years old and he was put in the care of Saint Severinus. Later he was sent to live with his uncle Bishop Costantius in Bavaria.

All his life Antony was in search of solitude. And while in Bavaria he became a monk.

Returning to Italy in 488, he joined a priest, called Marius, and his companions. They lived as hermits in caves on the shores of Lake Como.

Antony's daily practice of self-denial, long hours in prayer and meditation, and occasional sermons gained him many followers.

Fearing that his fame would make him vain, he fled to Lérins in Gaul. He lived there as a monk, once again seeking solitude.

Antony died around 520, renowned for his holiness and miracles.

Why would anyone seek solitude? Perhaps the prayer on Antony's feast day will help us understand. It asks God to "remove from our minds and hearts anything that would distract us from Your Spirit dwelling within us."





Prayer

O GOD,
You have given us the Saints to be
our examples in this life,
our friends in the spirit,
and our helpers in heaven.

As we read the accounts of their holy lives,
teach us to imitate their words and actions,
so that one day we may be united with them
in Your heavenly dwelling.

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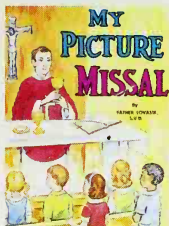
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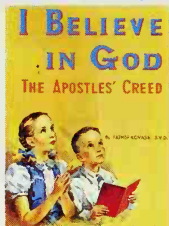
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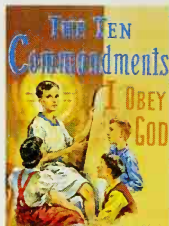
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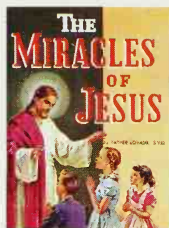
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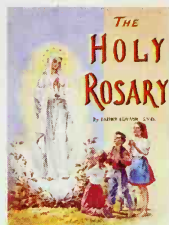
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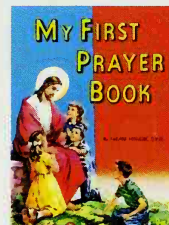
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